

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:D M WINN:LB
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:J R COUNTRYMAN
EB/ORF/FSE:J TODD

-----012128 300817Z /11

R 291356Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 259406

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TC

SUBJECT: MOBIL OIL REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON UAE RUMORS

1. PETER CHASE OF MOBIL CONTACTED ARP WITH REQUEST THAT
AMBASSADOR DICKMAN COMMENT ON RUMORS WHICH HAVE SURFACED
DURING ROUND OF RECENT NEGOTIATING BETWEEN ADPC AND ADNOC.
CHASE SAID THAT HE AND OTHER MOBIL EXECS WERE QUITE WORRIED
BY FOLLOWING STORIES AND DEVELOPMENTS, WHICH HAD BEEN
REPORTED FROM LONDON BY ADPC TEAM. DETAILS OF ALLEGATIONS:

(A) DURING DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR DICKMAN, MINISTER OF
PETROLEUM UTAIBA COMPLAINED ABOUT POOR FIELD MANAGEMENT OF
BU HASA FIELDS--IN PARTICULAR, SAID UTAIBA, THAT FIELDS HAD
BEEN OVERPRODUCED TO MAKE UP FOR "DOWN TIME" FOLLOWING
RECENT FIRE.

(B) FONMIN SUWAIDI IS SAID AGAIN TO HAVE BECOME ACTIVE IN
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PETROLEUM AFFAIRS.

(C) ALLOWABLE PRODUCTION AT BU HASA FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEM-
BER HAS BEEN SEVERELY CUT BACK.

2. CHASE ADDED THAT HE WAS DISTURBED BY WHAT APPEARS TO BE
SUDDEN "ADVERSE TREND" IN ADNOC-ADPC RELATIONSHIP, AS

REPRESENTED BY THESE DEROGATORY COMMENTS AND PREJUDICIAL ACTIONS. HE SPECULATED THAT THIS COULD REPRESENT MERELY HARDLINE NEGOTIATING POSITION ON PART OF ADNOC, IN WHICH CASE ADPC COULD PLAY SAME GAME. ON OTHER HAND, HE SAID, PERHAPS UAE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED NOT TO PLAY STRAIGHT WITH THEM, IN WHICH CASE CLIMATE HAS IN FACT SOURED. CHASE ALSO SPECULATED THAT RUMORS MAY REFLECT CURRENT SPATE OF IN-FIGHTING BETWEEN UTAIBA, SUWAIDI, AND SHEIKH TAHNUN. IN ANY CASE, SAID CHASE, AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING DETAILS OF ALLEGED CONVERSATION BETWEEN HIM AND UTAIBA. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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